

Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /135 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6108

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GOEN

SUBJ: COW-II

REF: VIENNA 1639

1. THE UNITED NATIONS IS EVEN WORSE THAN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN ITS ADDICTION TO OBSCURE ACRONYMS. COW-II FRANKLY STRIKES ME AS A LOT OF BULL. AND ALREADY WE ARE TALKING OF COW-III. WE HAVE BECOME SO ENAMORED OF ESOTERICA THAT, QUITE ASIDE FROM CORRUPTION AND CONTAMINATION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, IT IS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR EVEN THE INFORMED OFFICER TO KNOW WHAT IS BEING TALKED ABOUT IN MUCH OF THE JARGON PUSHED AT US.

2. THERE IS NO WISH TO CAUSE OFFENSE HERE TO THOSE WHO BRED COW. SAMPLE OF RECENT INCOMING TELEGRAMS PRODUCES SUCH TONGUE TWISTERS AS AWACS, NPIC, PRNLM, PVO AND TROV. AT LEAST CONASUPO WAS IDENTIFIED (MEXICAN RELIEF AGENCY). BUT NONE OF THESE OFFER QUITE THE SAME MENTAL

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DROOPINGS AS COW.

3. BY DINT OF SOME RESEARCH IN THIS MISSION AND THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF THOSE MORE VERSED IN ARCAINE CONSULTATIONS, I HAVE COME TO LEARN THAT COW STANDS FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, HAVING TO DO WITH UNIDO. THAT BUREAUCRATIC JAWBONE IN PARAGRAPH 3 REFTTEL ABOUT "EVALUATION OF THE ACCEPTABILITY OF ...THE WORK OF THE COW" MIGHT SUGGEST TO LESS SOPHISTICATED READERS ANIMAL HUSBANDRY RATHER THAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

4. TO AID HAPLESS SEEKERS AFTER THE TRUTH, WHO ALAS SEE THROUGH GLASSES DARKLY, LET THIS BE A PLEA THAT AT LEAST ONCE IN EVERY TELEGRAM WE SPELL OUT OBSCURE REFERENCES AND SAY WHAT WE MEAN. THE ADDITION TO SIGNAL TRAFFIC WOULD NOT BE ALL THAT MUCH AND WOULD AT LEAST FORESTALL REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION. AS FOR ENGLISH, WE HAVEN'T WRITTEN IT FOR YEARS.
BENNETT

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